Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 /073 W ------------------011441Z 087365 /42

R 011214Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USLO RIYADH

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 7891

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, EGEN, BGEN, SA, KS SUBJECT: IMPORT OF KOREAN LABORERS

REF: DHAHRAN 0440

1. QUERIED ABOUT PROBLEM COVERED IN REFTEL, ROK TRADE REPRESENTATIVE JAE WON ROH SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO PROBLEMS REGARDING ENTRY SOUTH KOREAN WORKERS INTO KUWAIT. ENTRY IS ARRANGED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS BY IMPORTING FIRMS INVOLVED AT AIRPORT. BECAUSE KUWAIT AND ROK DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISAS CANNOT BE ISSUED IN ADVANCE. ROH SAID THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE ROK DISCOURAGES KOREAN WORKERS FROM WORKING FOR NON-KOREAN FIRMS BECAUSE OF CONCERN THAT JAPANESE FIRMS WILL BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE WITH KOREAN FIRMS THROUGH THE HIRING OF KOREAN WORKERS.

2. ROH'S COMMENTS APPLY TO KUWAIT, WHERE JAPANESE FIRMS HAVE WON NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTS RECENTLY. JAPANESE EXPORTS TO KUWAIT MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 1976, TO \$743 MILLION, MAKING JAPAN REPLACE THE US (WITH \$472 MILLION IN EXPORTS) AS KUWAIT'S CHIEF SUPPLIERS.

3. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY INSTANCE OF AN AMERICAN FIRM BRINGING IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF KOREAN WORKERS; THEREFORE, PROBLEM FOR US FIRMS OUTLINED IN DHAHRAN'S REFTEL HAS NOT ARISEN HERE.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: ENTRY VISAS, FOREIGN WORKERS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 01-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT02345
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770152-0978

Format: TEL From: KUWAIT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705105/aaaadnpl.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: cb8a6088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 DHAHRAN 440

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2337631 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: IMPORT OF KOREAN LABORERS TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, EGEN, BGEN, SA, KS, KU

To: DHAHRAN Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb8a6088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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